GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3351
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2016
Procurement of Pulses
Reddy Shri Y. S. Avinash;Saraswati Shri Sumedhanand

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government has commenced the procurement of pulses from farmers already at Minimum Support Price, if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether the Government has received any proposals for enhancing MSP for pulses and whether the Government has taken any decision to hike the MSP for any of the pulses, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;
(c) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that farmers are compelled to sell their produce including pulses specially "moong" below MSP in the current season, if so, the facts thereof and corrective steps taken by the Union Government in this regard;
(d) whether the Union Government has decided to make a buffer stock of pulses in the country; and
(e) if so, the details thereof and other steps taken to control prices of pulses in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

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(a): Government has procured around one lakh tonnes of Moong at Minimum Support Price (MSP) as on 01.12.2016 for building the buffer stock of pulses.

(b): The Government has increased the MSP for Kharif and Rabi pulses during 2016-17 as can be seen from the Table below:-

Statement showing Minimum Support Prices including Bonus Fixed by Government for Pulses (in ?/qtl)
Pulses 2015-16 2016-17
Tur 4625 5050
Moong 4850 5225
Urad 4625 5000
Gram 3500 4000
Masur 3400 3950
Source: Department of Agriculture & Cooperation

(c): The Government has directed the procuring agencies to undertake aggressive procurement of fresh Moong at MSP so that farmers are not compelled to sell Moong below MSP in the current season.

(d & e): Yes, Madam. The Government has approved creation of buffer stock of upto 20 lakh tonnes of pulses. The other steps taken by the Government to moderate the prices of pulses in the country are at Annexure.

ANNEXURE
STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (d) & (e) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3351 FOR 06.12.2016 REGARDING PROCUREMENT OF PULSES

Other steps taken by the Government to control prices of pulses in the country
I. Export of all pulses is banned except kabuli channa and up to 10,000 MTs in organic pulses and lentils.
II. Import of pulses are allowed at zero import duty.
III. Stock limit on pulses extended till 30.9.2017.
IV. MSP raised for kharif pulses of 2016-17 for Tur, Urad and Moong as well as for Rabi pulses of Gram and Masoor for season 2016-17.
V. Government has released around 48,660.285 MT of pulses from the buffer stock to the States or through Central Agencies at subsidized rates for retailing at reasonable rates to improve availability and stabilize prices.
VI. Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has banned new contracts in Chana to dampen speculative activities in Chana and in respect of running contracts in Chana disallowed taking fresh positions to reduce speculative activities.
VII. Strict vigilance by Directorate of Revenue Intelligence to prevent importers from mis-using the facilities of Customs Bonded Warehouse facility.
VIII. Setting up of a Group of Officers for regular monitoring and exchange of information on hoarding, cartelization etc.

IX. About 1.40 lakh tonnes pf pulses seized from 14612 raids and disposed of 1.28 lakh tonnes either by auction or other means permitted under EC Act, 1955.

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